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CONNECTOR WITH SNAP COLLAR LATCHING
Group art unit: 2833

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, Line 4, before this line and after the title insert the following paragraph heading:

FIELD AND BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, Line 4, before this line insert the following paragraph heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, please replace the two consecutive paragraphs beginning at line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph and paragraph heading:

~~The object is achieved by the invention specified in the claims.~~

~~Claim 1 substantially provides in the first instance a second bead. This~~ In accrdance with the invention, a second bead is

formed radially on the inside of an axial continuation of the collar. In the release position, the axial continuation can escape radially. In the locking position, the axial continuation is blocked from escaping. In a development of the invention, it is proposed that the continuation comprises two tongues lying diametrically opposite each other and separated from each other by a gap. Each tongue may in this case have an associated second latching bead. The latching bead may be disposed at the free end of the continuation. Furthermore, the latching bead may lie on an imaginary helical curve. This configuration is particularly advantageous whenever the sleeve of the counter connector carries an external thread. The second latching bead can then engage in the turns of the external thread. On the outer side from the second annular bead, the continuation may have a thickening. This thickening is preferably of such a thickness that a portion of the locking coupling lies in physical contact with the thickening in the locking position. As a result, the locking coupling, which consists in particular of metal, prevents radial escape of the tongues, which consist in particular of soft plastic. Only in the release position of the locking coupling can the portion of the continuation carrying the second bead escape radially. In the locking position, the end edge of the locking coupling can be flush with the end edge of the continuation. In the release position, on the other hand, the end edge of the locking coupling assumes a position at a distance from the end edge of the continuation. During the displacement from the locking position into the release position, the locking coupling is drawn back with respect to the end edge of the continuation. As in the case of the prior art cited at the

beginning, the locking coupling can be displaced back and forth between two latching positions. With regard to the configuration of the latching connection between the locking coupling and the connector part, reference is made to the constructions of DE 102 35 675.0. The connector there has a hard plastic portion which has on the outer wall two kidney-shaped depressions lying diametrically opposite each other. Radially inwardly directed latching continuations of the locking coupling engage in these kidney-shaped depressions. As a consequence of this engagement, this locking coupling cannot be displaced between two latching positions spaced axially apart from each other and cannot be turned.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 3, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 37 with the following rewritten paragraph:

figure 3 shows a representation of the connector in longitudinal section with the locking coupling removed, and

Page 4, Line 5, before this line insert the following paragraph heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Page 5, please replace the paragraph starting at line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The latching bead 9 is adjoined by two tongues lying opposite each other and forming a continuation 11. The tongues 11 have outer edges 11', so that an axial slit (gap) 13 is formed between the outer edges 11' of the two tongues 11. Two slits 13 lying diametrically opposite each other are formed. As a result, the tongues 11 are able to escape radially, since they likewise consist of an elastic material. Latching beads 12 extend over an angular segment on the inner side of the tongues 11. In the exemplary embodiment, the latching beads 12 extend over an angle α of 80° over the radially inner side of the tongues 11. As is to be gathered in particular from figure 3, the latching beads 12 lie on an imaginary helical curve. The pitch of the helical curve corresponds to the pitch of the thread of the threaded portion 15. The two beads lie in the region of the free end of the tongues 11. In this region, each tongue 11 has a radially outer thickening 14.

Page 7, Lines 17-23, delete this paragraph starting at line 17:

~~All disclosed features are (in themselves) pertinent to the invention. The disclosure content of the associated/accompanying priority documents (copy of the prior patent application) is also hereby incorporated in full in the disclosure of the patent application, including for the purpose of incorporating features of these documents in claims of the present application.~~